

Claims (Amended)

I claim:

1. A unitary[, retrofit] connector that retrofits onto existing buildings and helps prevent hurricane and earthquake damage [to a building] by positively connecting a roof to a wall, comprising:

- a. a base [member] web;
- b. an offset, angled, top web having generally right angled bends forming rafter [webs] tabs;
- c. said base web and said top web connected by an offset web;
- d. said offset web having acute angled bends attached to said base web and said top web.

2. The connector of claim 1 wherein said base web having a generally flat, generally long-horizontal rectangular shape, with a plurality of nail holes as a means for retrofitting to [said] an exterior wall, and into an underlying structural member.

3. The connector of claim 1 wherein said offset web [having attachment] connected to said base web by a first generally horizontal bend at an acute angle.

4. The connector of claim [1] 3 wherein said offset web [having attachment] connected to said top web by a second generally horizontal bend at an acute angle.

5. The connector of claim [1] 4 wherein said first and second [acute] angled bends, attached to opposite ends of said offset web, having generally unequal, acute bends in opposite directions as an offsetting means, thereby offsetting [of placing] said top web away from said base web, and thereby avoiding frieze boards and blocking [that

stick out from said wall] on a house.

6. The connector of claim 5 wherein said unequal bends and offset web forming said base web and said top web unparallel to each other as a means of forming a buttress between a rafter of said roof, said wall, and underlying structural members, thereby preventing said exterior wall from detaching from said roof rafter.
7. The connector of claim 1 wherein said top web having generally vertical right angle bends [generally near said second acute angle bend,] dividing said top web into left and right blocking webs.
8. The connector of claim [1] 7 wherein said right angle bends form[ing] rafter tabs off said blocking webs that are generally vertical, parallel, and having a plurality of nail holes for attaching to the sides of said roof rafter.
9. The connector of claim [8] 7 wherein said blocking webs having an offset and acute angle, thereby placing said blocking webs generally parallel to frieze boards and blocking on said house and said blocking webs having a plurality of nail holes as an attaching means onto said frieze boards and blocking.
10. The connector of claim 1 wherein said base [plate] web , said rafter tabs, and said [blocking] top web[s] having attaching means to an existing house by a plurality of nail holes, as a means for securing together [said] an exterior wall[, said] and underlying structural member, [said] to a roof rafter, and [said] frieze boards and blocking, thereby preventing wind and seismic damage from a hurricane and earthquake.

11. An [retrofit] apparatus that retrofits onto existing buildings and helps prevent hurricane and earthquake damage [to a building] by positively connecting the top of a roof to a wall, comprising:

- a. a base [member] web;
- b. an offset, angled top web having right angled bends, called rafter upright bends, forming rafter [webs] tabs;
- c. said base web and said top web connected by an offset web;
- d. said offset web having acute angled bends attached to said base web and said top web;
- e. said rafter tabs having right angle bends, called sheathing bends, perpendicular to said rafter upright bends, forming strengthening tabs;
- f. said rafter tabs dividing said top web into blocking webs;
- g. said blocking webs having right angle bends, called sheathing bends, perpendicular to said rafter upright bends, forming sheathing tabs;
- h. said sheathing tab folded on top of said strengthening tab;
- i. said sheathing tabs and said strengthening tabs having a bolt hole;
- j. a generally rectangular roof plate having a plurality of bolt holes;
- k. nuts and bolts.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said roof plate having a predetermined area and a generally flat shape for conforming to an outside surface of [said] a roof.

13. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said roof plate having [a] said plurality of bolt holes spaced greater than a width of a roof rafter, providing a [for] straddling means, whereby a roof rafter underlying said roof, [and] having bolt [holes for] placement[ing said bolts into said holes] on either

side of said rafter.

14. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said apparatus having attaching means [below said roof and said roof plate having attaching means above said roof and to said apparatus below said roof, using nuts and bolts for securing said roof to said wall] to the top of a roof by said roof plate, and said rafter tabs, said top web, said base web, and said sheathing tabs having attachment to a rafter, frieze board, top plate, exterior wall, and said roof plate respectively, thereby forming a strong connection between the top of a roof and the wall of a house, preventing wind and seismic damage.